



I'm rich! I (Greg) recently acquired a lot of money. 902,000 kip to be precise. Unfortunately once exchanged back it's only \$100. But at least for my week in Laos I felt rich. Of course a plate of rice costs 5,000 kip (50 cents). I quickly found out that there wasn't much to spend my wealth on. Laos is

very underdeveloped, even compared to Thailand. Most of the roads we traveled on were dirt, even in provincial towns. The so called towns seem more like large villages and the bus stations usually boasting only one bus. Although modern cars were available, I saw many people still driving vehicles that needed to be started with a crank like an old Model T.

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I went to Laos, not to get rich, but to find a certain people, the Tai Yuan. From previous letters you probably know that we already work with the Tai Yuan in Thailand & are currently studying their language. 90% of the Tai Yuan live in Northern Thailand but there are pockets of Tai Yuan in Laos. 2co-workers & I made a 5 day trip into Laos to do some scouting out. Find some Tai Yuan, show off my Northern Thai, and to see Laos up close. At first I thought the trip would be quite enjoyable. Corinne and Jonesy were safely back in the states with her parents. I was going to go unexplored terrain (for me) and see things I had never seen before. But in reality I spent most of the each day on a bus going down dirt roads, being covered with dust. Once we got to a town we had a few hours to talk with people before dark. Once night falls everyone goes inside. There's no such thing as a night life in these towns. So that meant we would just go back to our room & waiting to get tired.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for opportunities to go back to the Tai Yuan in Laos
- Pray for Tai Yuan Christians in N. Thailand to have a heart to reach out
- Praise God for the safety we all had in traveling
- Pray for the short term team coming in June to have Spirit-ready hearts
- Pray for the making of the Tai Yuan Prayer Book-due out late 2007

Because of the travel weariness and the boredom of evenings, we lived for those few hours we were able to be outside talking with people. Our job was to roam around and chat with people. Find out who they were, what language they spoke and see if they understood the Tai Yuan that I can speak. I have never been in a place where I heard so many dialects of the same language. All the dialects fall under the major language Dai (Thai also). Imagine going into room with ten people. Each time you talk to someone they speak differently than the last person and each time you feel like you just on the brink of understanding them; however it's still very different. This is Laos. I was so relieved when we finally found a Tai Yuan. We stayed in a guesthouse who's owner was Tai Yuan. She sounded just like someone from my village in Thailand; same accent, vocabulary, and phrases. She told me of all the other Tai Yuan that lived in the area, inside the town and out in villages. Success! We found the people we were looking for. Good timing too because we were heading back to Thailand the next day.



What's Corinne & Jonesy doing?

We had a very busy Jan/Feb packing up the house, visiting Chiang Mai, and making the transpolar flight to Red Lion, PA.

Jonesy is doing well adjusting to life back in the States. He's enjoying having playmates that he can chase about the house. He didn't really like the snow, but then again he *is* Thai!

Corinne and lil' one are doing well. Only 7 more weeks, so she's definitely looking forward to spring. The Baby is quite a mover and everything looks good. Thanks for your prayers.

The trip was a success not only because we found the Tai Yuan but because I got a picture of language situation in Laos. Even with my meager Northern Thai (Tai Yuan), I was on the brink of understanding other dialects. Our hope is that God would move in the hearts of the Tai Yuan in Thailand to go and share the Gospel not only to the Tai Yuan of Laos, but other dialects as well. A Tai Yuan missionary would be able to share the Gospel naturally in a way that reaches the hearts of the peoples of Laos. Please pray with us that God would continue to guide us and the Tai Yuan in this direction. So I'm not rich anymore all the kip is back into Baht, but there is greater wealth in knowing the God wants to pour out His blessing on these people.

Clip 'N Save Recipe

Gaeng Hanglay Northern Thai Curry

- 1lb beef-cut into 1/2" slices
- 2c coconut milk
- 1/4c chopped lemon grass
- 1 tsp shrimp paste
- 5 dried chili peppers
- 2 T yellow bean sauce
- 6 cloves garlic
- 1 T chopped ginger
- 3 T palm sugar
- 2 green onions
- 1/4 c tamarind juice
- 2 T curry powder

Simmer the beef slices in the coconut milk for 30 minutes in a large covered saucepan. Blend together the remaining ingredients to make a paste, add to the beef and continue to simmer, covered, for another 10 minutes.